

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

ELDERLY and DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES for November 13, 2014

The DVCC Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee met on November 13, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the Carvel State Office Building, Wilmington. Attending the meeting were: Honorable Lewis D. Schiliro, Secretary, Department of Safety and Homeland Security and Chair, Gina Schoenberg, Department of Justice, Regina Gray and Ashley Biden, Delaware Center for Justice; and Natasha Smith and Pat Kwetkauskie - DVCC staff.

Call to Order: Gina Schoenberg called the meeting to order and noted that Pat Dailey-Lewis was unavoidably detained but hoped to join the meeting shortly.

Introductions: Attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the meeting held on September 3, 2014 were reviewed. Regina Gray made a motion to accept the minutes; Secretary Schiliro seconded the motion. There was consensus to approve the minutes.

Old Business:

Gina noted that Pat Dailey-Lewis will report on the following at the next meeting:

- Expanding Committee Membership
- Update on Judicial Training topics

New Business

1. Progress on Goals:

- The Committee reviewed the goals that had been developed during previous meetings.
- Gina and Pat reported that they were unable to identify emergency domestic violence shelters that served elderly victims exclusively. There was discussion about local options that might serve as an alternative housing option including Sacred Heart Senior Housing. Regina noted that generally the wait list for senior housing is one year to 18 months.
- Pat also reported that there are two programs that offer accompaniment to senior victims during the legal process. The Department of Justice sponsors a statewide program for Senior Advocates - volunteer senior citizens who are trained to assist seniors who have been victims of crime feel more comfortable with the criminal justice system and navigate through and participate in the criminal justice process. It was noted that this program is currently inactive due to a staff vacancy. In addition the Delaware Center for Justice – Adult Victim Services program provides legal advocacy services to older victims in New Castle County.

2. Identified the Need to Obtain Data:

- Secretary Schiliro identified the need to obtain data in order to substantiate the needs of elderly victims of domestic violence. There was consensus the Committee would develop systems to compile data to identify the needs of elderly victims of domestic violence. It was agreed this goal would be added to the Committee's previous goals and would become a priority.
- There was discussion about the type of data to compile and what agencies could be approached to assist with this endeavor.

Next Steps

1. Gina Schoenberg will review DOJ cases involving elderly victims and report on the relationship of the accused (familial vs. non-familial)
2. Natasha Smith will contact Maureen Monagle at the Criminal Justice Council to inquire about data on elderly victims the CJC has previously collected.
3. Ashley Biden will contact Secretary Landgraf, Department of Health and Social Services to determine what type of data is collected; including elder adults who are victims and who have drugs and/or alcohol issues, as well as information about perpetrators' relationships to victims and their substance abuse issues.
4. Regina Gray will report on the number of elderly victims of domestic violence served by DCJ who need housing.
5. Pat Kwetkauskie will invite Peggy Bell from Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) to the next meeting to discuss what data can be retrieved through DELJIS including types of the number of elderly victimizations, types of crimes reported, victim relationship to the accused, etc.
6. The Committee also will look at national trends and statistics available through the US Office of Violence Against Women.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the DVCC Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee will be held in mid-January, 2015 – the date and location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Kwetkauskie, DVCC Staff
November 21, 2014